

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 EA-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 EB-08
NRC-05 SOE-02 DODE-00 DOE-11 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01
NEAE-00 /110 W

-----025716 171400Z /53

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8111
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOMBAY 0690

E.O. 11652: NGDS
TAGS: MNUC, IN
SUBJECT: INDIAN NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

REF: A) STATE 59977 B) BOMBAY 0689

1. SETHNA ASKED ME TO CONVEY HIS APOLOGIES TO DEPARTMENT AND AMBASSADOR FOR DELAY IN PROVIDING DATA REQUESTED REFTEL. HE REPEATED THAT HE ALWAYS WANTS TO COOPERATE IN THESE MATTERS AS MUCH AND QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND HE CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT COMMENTS BY USG ON INDIA'S PROGRAMS SHOULD BE CHECKED WITH INDIA OFFICIALS WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

2. HE SAID THE DELAY RESULTED FROM A PROBLEM IN SORTING OUT WITH MEA INFORMATION THAT HAS NOT YET BEEN RELEASED TO PARLIAMENT AND INFORMATION THE FOREIGN COUNTRIES DO NOT WANT PUBLICIZED. PRECEDING TELEGRAM BOMBAY 0689 GIVES DATA THAT CAN BE CITED PUBLICLY AND ATTRIBUTED TO IAEC. THIS CABLE GIVES DATA THAT MUST REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL BECAUSE OF STRICTURES MENTIONED PRECEDING PARAGRAPH.

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3. SETHNA SAID THAT FOLLOWING SCIENTISTS VISITED INDIA UNDER BILATERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS FOR STUDY IN 1977: IRAQ - 4 - ONE IN LOW TEMPERATURE PHYSICS, ONE IN URANIUM ANALYSIS, ONE IN REACTOR PHYSICS AND ONE IN NEUTRON DEFRACTION. EGYPT - ONE IN HEALTH PHYSICS. CZECHOSLOVAKIA - 5 - THREE IN NEUTRON DEFRACTION, ONE IN RADIATION SHIELDING, ONE

IN REACTOR CONTROLS. HUNGARY - 3 - ONE IN BIO-CHEMISTRY, ONE IN FOOD IRRADIATION AND ONE GENERAL IRRADIATION TECHNIQUES.

4. SETHNA SAID THAT THE SIZE AND FUNCTIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF IAEA AND BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN 1977 WERE TYPICAL OF RECENT YEARS. HE ALSO NOTED THAT ALL OF THIS ASSISTANCE IS IN NON-SENSITIVE AREAS. HE SAID THAT IN 1977 HE REJECTED REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN HEAVY WATER PRODUCTION AND IN FUEL FABRICATION AS WELL AS CONTINUING TO TURN DOWN REQUESTS FOR ANYTHING HAVING TO DO WITH REPROCESSING.

5. SETHNA SAID THAT THESE DATA ON TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD ARE COMPLETE FOR 1977 EXCEPT THAT THE TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH WHICH RUNS ITS OWN PROGRAM MAY HAVE OFFERED SOME ASSISTANCE IN FUNDAMENTAL NUCLEAR RESEARCH UNDER A \$70,000. ANNUAL PROGRAM UNDER WHICH IT BRINGS FOREIGN SCIENTISTS TO INDIA EACH YEAR FOR BASIC RESEARCH IN A NUMBER OF FIELDS INCLUDING THE NUCLEAR ONE. THE TIFR PROGRAM IS NOT UNDER THE IAEC SO HE WAS NOT ABLE DIRECTLY TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON IT BUT HE CERTAINLY INTENDED TO GIVE ME THE IMPRESSION THAT NONE OF IT IS IN SENSITIVE AREAS.
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